

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

CONSUMER SURVEY OF ORR INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTION

I. The Problem

To evaluate the effectiveness with which ORR intelligence production and other services are adequately meeting the needs of present and potential customers.

II. Summary of Findings

This report is based both upon an examination of the nature of ORR production during the past two years and a survey of the principal agencies of government which require foreign economic intelligence research support. The survey included personal interviews with some 35 to 40 officers of such agencies. It leads to the following observations upon the intelligence production of ORR.

1. The reports which have been prepared during the past year and those now in preparation give a wide coverage of the industry and commodity aspect of the Soviet Orbit economy. None of the agencies consulted asked for more specialized coverage of this nature. The reports thus far released are used extensively by specialists in several agencies. These reports provide basic economic data for such widely differing purposes as the preparation of national estimates and the analysis of air targets. There is a general and cordial appreciation among the intelligence agencies for such intensive research by ORR. As a matter of fact, for many economic sectors, there is no comparable facility in the government for producing detailed industry and commodity studies on the Soviet Bloc, or for more than superficial checking of ORR results.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2. The officers consulted gave some constructive criticism of our present reports with suggestions for their improvement.

a. The technical (industry and commodity) specialists and other analysts in the various agencies usually desire full documentation - assumptions, methods and sources. Such users indicated a desire for the fullest detail and documentation possible.

b. Some recipients of our reports with a wider interest (e.g. the estimates branches of Air and Naval Intelligence) require area studies which reveal the economic capabilities of particular countries or regions and the degree of self-sufficiency^{of} (or interdependence between) such areas. For this requirement, present ORR reports are inadequate.

c. Several of the officers consulted also suggested that the naked statement of isolated facts in many ORR reports is inadequate for many purposes. Several persons consulted, in nearly all agencies, recommended that more attention be given to an evaluation of the data - e.g. in relation to military and other national purposes - and to an analysis of the interrelations between economic sectors (between the various industries, etc.). The desirability of relating economic activity to economic policy also was stressed by some of our consumers (especially in OCI, ONE, and the Department of State).

d. While many ORR reports lack adequate analysis of the significance of the data presented (as noted in sub-paragraph c. above), it was suggested, by some of the officers consulted, that such reports frequently contain considerable, unnecessary, elementary material.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

S-E-C-R-E-T

3. In addition to the above comments, which in a sense are a by-product of the original purpose of this study, and are based upon responses which were forthcoming without solicitation, the following questions were raised in each interview.

a. Would a shorter, more concise, type of report than that now usually published by ORR be useful?

There were some differences in the degree of interest shown in such reports depending upon the nature of the responsibilities of the officers interviewed.

(1) Those responsible for the direction of work of a detailed nature (Air Targets or other military or economic defense operations) desire the fullest information possible for reference purposes. The type of reports now being prepared, from this point of view, are preferable to any shorter version. Reports of this type (as now prepared in ORR), however, appear to be read in their entirety only by a very few specialists.

(2) There is evidently a much larger number of officers who have a definite but limited interest in many of the subjects treated in ORR reports. For such persons a short abstract would meet an important but, at present, unfilled need. Even when the longer reports are carefully prepared, with a short summary at the beginning, they often are too bulky, too forbidding, and circulate too slowly to meet this special requirement. Officers who would appear to make good use of such abstracts include: specialists in fields different from, but related to, that treated

S-E-C-R-E-T

in a given publication; general analysts and estimators concerned with broad problems in which the subject of a particular report is only one of a very large number in which they are interested; and many planners and policy makers. Among this group, i.e. those who are not industry or commodity specialists, a preference was indicated for a concise abstract giving the essential facts and findings plus an indication of the material which could be found, if desired, in the longer definitive report from which the abstract was made. In a number of agencies, abstracts of this type are made, from time to time, of ORR and other reports.

b. Is there any need for a periodic (quarterly or semi-annual) review and appraisal of major economic developments in the Soviet Orbit countries?

In many cases, when this question was raised, the officers who were being interviewed recognized, often with some surprise, that no such economic review was at present available in the government. It was almost universally recognized that such a publication would be very useful to analysts, policy makers and planners. I did not gain the impression, however, that there is the same spontaneous eagerness for a report of this type as for the short abstracts of present ORR research reports. The two types of reports, to be sure, are quite different.

The nearest approximation to a periodic review of economic developments at present available appear to be the following:

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

"Soviet Affairs", issued monthly by OIR; deals rather more with political than economic subjects. Articles from time to time in the "Current Intelligence Digest".

The periodic preparation and publication (e.g. quarterly) of a competent review of the major economic developments in the orbit countries probably could be accomplished by two or three economists of unusually broad experience and knowledge of the Soviet economy, with the cooperation, from time to time, of analysts in the various branches of ORR. This is a major undertaking, however, which clearly should receive further consideration before it is undertaken.

III. Recommendations

(The following recommendations, for the most part, are based upon the findings of the present survey, as noted above. They obviously do not purport to be a complete critique of ORR production.)

1. That ORR undertake as soon as feasible the preparation of short abstracts of its principal reports as publications for separate distribution. These abstracts should give terse statements of the principal facts and analytical findings appearing in the definitive report and if particularly appropriate might include one or more short tables, charts or maps. They also should indicate very briefly the material which could be obtained if desired in the longer report. But such abstracts should not exceed some 3 or 4 pages. They might be identified with a distinctive letter, but the same number, as the longer, definitive study (e.g. RR-A-000 referring to the abstract of CIA/RR-000).

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

S-E-C-R-E-T

Since the longer research reports appear to be read in extenso by only a few specialists and are retained largely for reference purposes they need not be printed and distributed in large numbers. It appears likely, however, that the summary abstracts will be needed by a somewhat larger number of intelligence users.

In meeting the needs for which the longer, basic research reports are most likely to be required, their users have indicated a desire to have the fullest possible documentation showing the assumptions, methodology, and sources, as well as the final results in complete detail.

2. That the types of ORR publications (format, designations, etc.) be continued as at present excepting as follows:

a. That the provisional report, PR, be discontinued as a publication category. In a sense all publications are provisional (they are all ephemeral and parts of larger wholes).

b. That the publications now designated "Working Paper" be changed to "Working Draft" to emphasize their tentative character. Good reasons can be advanced for the complete discontinuation of such publications. The present survey, however, does not support that conclusion. They clearly serve a useful purpose in the hands of technical specialists in other agencies. The circulation of these "Working Drafts", however, should be restricted to such technical specialists.

3. That further study be made of the need and feasibility of preparing a quarterly or semi-annual review of outstanding economic developments in the Soviet Orbit countries and possibly in sensitive peripheral areas.

4. That consideration be given to more adequate analysis of regional aspects of economic problems.

Approved For Release 1999/09/02 : CIA-RDP79-01206A000100040003-5

S-E-C-R-E-T

5. That greater emphasis be given in the research program of ORR to the preparation of studies which relate the facts on individual sectors (industries, commodities, services) of the economy to the military and economic warfare capabilities and the possible lines of action of the Soviet Orbit countries.

6. That a survey of consumer needs for ORR research and other support be repeated, probably once a year, as an aid in directing ORR research and other activities in such a manner as will insure their greatest usefulness to the intelligence effort of the Government.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~